

# Tidy Towns Competition 2015

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilgarvan** Ref: **970**  
County: **Kerry** Mark: **235**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **19/07/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	31	38
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	30	30
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	32	32
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	19	19
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	5	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	45	48
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	22	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29	29
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>235</b>

### Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Well done Kilgarvan TidyTowns Committee for preparing and presenting Kilgarvan for the SuperValu TidyTowns Competition 2015. The adjudicator hopes that your participation in this year's competition will assist you with your work and with your ambitions for your village. Thank you for the entry form, the photos and a special word to the person who prepared the map. I hope it is put on public display as it would inspire pride in all of the residents of the village and envy in others at the portrayal of village facilities, village amenities, village landscaping and village heritage on a hand drawn sketch. It was also of great assistance to the adjudicator in guiding him to your various projects. When you get all of the other sections of the competition to the standard of the map you too will be on Nationwide! Well done. In fact the person who went to such trouble in compiling your entry deserves all of the plaudits one can bestow. You communicate and interact with the local community, have support of many businesses, liaise with local agencies and benefit from all. You appear to have a meaningful relationship with the school which is vital in creating awareness in many of the categories of the competition. You are recent entrants into the TidyTowns competition but it seems to the adjudicator that you are learning quickly. The rewards you mention are worthy, the competition motivates your community to improve the area and has stimulated more to become involved. Wonderful. 'De réir a chéile sea thógtar na caisleáin'.

### Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

Main street Kilgarvan unfolds itself by degrees as one swings around with the street curves. And as the street unfurls one sees how important your encouragement to the business owners and the residents of the street to paint their buildings is to the appearance of this street. You have received a response that should steel your determination. Ensure that all of the premises live up to the standard of their neighbours, as there are one or two buildings that need to step up to the mark. Your public buildings enhance the village experience. The Church, the school, the Community Centre can be proud of their maintenance and appearance. Tigh Úi Shúilleabháin looks very well as does the stone building beside it, the Village Grill, Reilly's bar, Ó Riada's bar all adding to the streetscape. Regard for your poetic heritage is portrayed beautifully. Could that be a presbytery that is so beautifully presented? Certainly another building has to be the railway station from once upon a time and it is really well presented. While Quills and the Little Acorns may be a distance from town they are important elements of your built environment and a great introduction to Kilgarvan.

### Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Great to read in your submission that work is ongoing in the landscaping section. On the visit one experiences and enjoys the fruit of your labours. Apart from the pots of flowers that are dotted all over it is also impressive that you are engaging in tree planting and hedge planting also as these help the wildlife of the area and promote a richer

biodiversity. The beech planting up at the graveyard will be a delight in a few years. Planting at the traffic barriers and the Bring Centre was admired. The maintenance work on the Kenmare road on the steep bank has to be challenging and perilous enough and one wonders if there is a labour saving project that would suit this stretch. One hopes that in time it will be possible to screen the electrical site with suitable planting. Continue your policy of planting directly into the surroundings rather than creating raised beds on perfect plant growing soil where possible. There are wonderful beds of planting all over the village. Your treatment of the Church, not only from a painting viewpoint but for the attention to railings, flower colour, grass maintenance is wonderful. The climbing plants up the gable wall of the school are admired. Great work also at the Garda barracks. On the other hand an island bed at the entrance to the GAA complex is a forlorn sight. While the adjudicator lauds you with the numbered tubs and their numbers representing those who sponsored them, one hopes that in time you can replace the plastic with more ornate containers. But that is down the road.

### **Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:**

Your wild flower garden shows that you have a growing awareness of the needs of the wildlife in the area. Bird boxes and feeders were to be seen all over. The adjudicator wondered what you meant by a wildlife habitat in 4 on the map as there are habitats all over the area. Well done on getting Paddy Maddens book but the contents of that book are also suitable reading for adults. One felt that your submission on wildlife depended very much on activities in the school whereas the wildlife of an area is the business of everyone. One presumes that you are aware of the Japanese Knotweed on the railway road.

### **Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:**

You are up and running in this section but the adjudicator cautions you not to confuse this section with the rubbish or litter in another category of the competition. In fact the advice is not to mention litter at all when describing your work in this section. The adjudicator refers back to the Community Involvement and Planning part of the entry form for major input relevant to sustainability with regard to the school. You mention that the school has been awarded a Green Flag. That is an achievement worthy of mention in this section. You mention that the school is involved in recycling and while recycling is not top of the pyramid it is important especially in creating awareness among the young. The example of the school in water conservation is a practice that must be encouraged in the local community. While you are making progress with the sustainability section the adjudicator advises you to study the Tidy Towns Handbook on the latest recommendations of the Tidy Towns unit on this section. Choose one or two definable and manageable projects for the coming year. Start this work in the autumn before the planting season. Last year's adjudicator mentioned composting and food waste, worth a thought. I am sure that you will be disappointed with your mark but it doubles last year's and leaves room for next year's adjudicator.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

There are many elements that contribute to the creation of an attractive, tidy village and one that stands out in the case of Kilgarvan is the fine strong green on a door that could be in decay. Care for the old garage, the protruding corrugated iron and the red building ensures that what could be major challenges to the tidiness of the street give the street a lift. The mowing of the ditch on the way to the Top garage also shows a pride in the village surroundings. Vacant buildings can become eyesores on a streetscape but not so here and you must take credit for that. Keep an eye on the appearance of road signs. The Kilgarvan sign that tells of the place you are twinned with needs urgent attention. In fact there are a few issues down that road. A ditch after the Church needs to have its base trimmed. Give a moment to the pedestrian gate into the reilig. Well done on your involvement with the National Spring Clean. That number of bags shows that the volunteers were doing more than chatting that day but also tells a sorry story on litter dropping. But you are active in this section of the competition and this is one of those sections that stimulates community involvement and raises morale.

### **Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:**

An outstanding feature of the village is the appearance of so many dwellings on the approach roads and along the street. Many of these houses are businesses from a previous generation, others are farm houses, other cottages but it is the painting in strong colours that attracts positive attention. The pink reveals, that fine yellow gable and the brown reveals help create the village atmosphere. One house dominates its neighbourhood, a beautiful period building, its red doors keeping up appearances. It will make a greater impact once it is occupied again. The terrace of houses on Railway Road lift the spirits with the delightful painting. Well done to the members of the community who made the sheltered housing possible in the middle of the village, its landscaping showing respect for the residents as well as creating a delightful picture. Limewoods is a lovely crescent of houses, the tree planting on the way in impresses. Yes, the van is on sentry duty.

### **Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:**

The first impression of Kilgarvan is through the village sign and the lovely treatment of that sign. It makes for an endearing first impression. The approach road from Kenmare is certainly the signature route to take into the village. The planting behind the traffic barrier will look wonderful in a short time. The appearance of the orange house with its geraniums and roses and its window boxes and that of its cottage neighbour with its colourful shrubs wake the motorist up to these lovely surroundings. The grass verge is maintained. When the Killarney approach road is compared to the Kenmare road it fares badly. Your task is to bring that road up to the standard of the other and so encourage the motorist to stop a while. The adjudicator loved the rural setting that the road by the guest house led to. Issues are the appearance of the traffic barrier and the appearance of some stretches of roadside.

**Concluding Remarks:**

Kilgarvan is on a very busy road connecting two iconic locations in Kerry. While passing traffic can benefit business it can have a severe effect on the appearance of the street through which it passes. You evidently understand this challenge and you are proactive in countering the negative effects. But it is a constant struggle so well done of your initiatives to date.